



In This Issue...

Technically it's still summer...but with school back in session, the county fair approaching and cooler nights hinting at the change of weather ahead, we're focused on fall!

And what an autumn it will be—the Office of Recycling has a lot going on that YOU can be involved in. Take a look at our calendar page to see how you can add a little "green" to this golden season!

Pondering Plastic

- **No one knows how long most types of plastic will last in a landfill.** 250 years? 1,500 years? 5,000 years? You may not be able to imagine what everyday life on planet Earth will be like in the future, but your disposable bottle could still be part of the scene.
- Single-use, disposable plastic packaging, which is largely not recyclable, has grown in use in the U.S. **from just 120,000 tons in 1960 to 12.7 million tons in 2006.** (Source: U.S. EPA)
- **Americans consumed 27.9 billion plastic water bottles** (1 liter or less) in 2005. This figure does not include plastic bottles for other beverages or larger water containers. (Source: Container Recycling Institute)
- Each year, Americans throw away some 100 billion polyethylene plastic bags (such as retail store bags). **Only 0.6 percent of plastic bags are recycled.** (Source: Worldwatch Institute)

Did you know that Frederick County's single-stream recycling program accepts some items from all seven number categories of plastic—and rejects some things from each category as well?! Complicating matters is the fact that even plastic products with the same resin ID numbers may not be compatible for recycling. For example, PET (polyethylene terephthalate), identified with the #1 symbol, is used in a wide variety of packaging applications from bottles to egg cartons to disposable cups. Although the base material is PET, manufacturers can alter the composition of the plastic depending on its intended end-use. Commonly, there can be variations in viscosity, additives like chlorine, and coating agents such as silicone or glycol. Also, the way the products are formed (blown or injection molded) affects their ability to be recycled, even if it's all made of PET. The end result is that various plastic products, although labeled the same, can not be mixed for recycling by the industries that need to reuse a specific kind of plastic for their products. Find out more online: www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/RecycleWhat?

LEARN MORE RECYCLE BETTER.ORG



IT'S NEVER BEEN EASIER TO RECYCLE IN FREDERICK COUNTY.

And our new website can help us all do it better. Log on to learn what **IS** and **IS NOT** recyclable, what size carts you can get from the County, collection schedules and more!

Back-to-School Recycling Basics

Not everything inside that backpack or lunch box is recyclable! Quiz your student to see if they know what can go in a recycling bin. Common mistakes are:

- paper towels & napkins
- juice pouches
- greasy paper
- candy wrappers
- potato chip bags
- plastic sandwich baggies
- 3-ring binders
- pencils & pens

None of those things are recyclable!

City of Frederick Launches Once-Per-Week Waste Collection Pilot Program

On September 1, 2011 the City of Frederick Department of Public Works will begin a pilot program to test the feasibility of reducing trash collection frequency to one time per week (rather than twice per week.) The pilot will be run in the communities of Walnut Ridge, Whittier and Rocky Point (all other areas of the City are unaffected at this time.)

With so many households recycling so much, the need for multiple trash pickups per week is greatly reduced. A change to the waste collection schedule could increase collection efficiency and benefit the environment by improving the carbon footprint of the collection program.

Here's what residents of *Whittier, Walnut Ridge and Rocky Point* need to know:

- As of September 1, Tuesday trash collection will be discontinued. These communities will **ONLY** have trash collection on **THURSDAYS**.
- If needed, additional waste carts are available for purchase from the City as follows:
 - 64 gallon: \$82.00
 - 96 gallon: \$91.00
- To purchase an additional waste cart, send email to: gpalm@cityoffrederick.com or call 301-600-1440.
- **Recycling collection schedules will not change!**
- If you do not have a recycling container, or would like to upsize to a larger cart, visit www.LearnMoreRecycleBetter.org to do so!



Friends From All Over

We love to hear from our fans of recycling! If you have tips, stories or ideas to share, please let us know.

Anyone who sends a recycling photo, story or other submission will receive a t-shirt or other fun prize!

Send email to recycle@FrederickCountyMD.gov or find us online at www.Facebook.com/FrederickRecycles!

"We have been recycling for 20+ years and have raised our 21 and 18 year-old boys by that system. My 18 year old just admitted the other day that until he entered middle school, **he thought it was against the law to throw anything recyclable in the trash!** We had a great laugh and it made me feel good to know that they grew up in a household where it was second nature to take the extra minute to rinse out a product and put it in the recycling container. We recycle so much that we only need trash pick-up once a month and even then the trash cart is only half full! It's so easy and becomes part of a lifestyle."

-Linda McKenna, Mt. Airy



These Emmitsburg sisters show how easy it is to use—and love—a 95-gallon recycling cart!

Recycling Works!

Access to single-stream recycling has created great, green options for many local organizations and commercial enterprises. Put recycling to work for your business too!



The Rewards of Going Green

There are all kinds of reasons for reducing waste in modern business, not the least of which is to increase the sustainability of the business itself. More and more business owners have begun to realize that in today's world, the idea of environmental responsibility has simply become standard business savvy.

From smarter purchasing policies, to equipment reuse, to saving money on waste disposal through recycling, being green can also help a business save some green.

While an improved bottom line is inherently rewarding and a source of internal pride, we'd like to help local businesses get the external recognition they deserve for their efforts to create less waste.

The 2011 Recycling & Waste Reduction Award from the Department of Solid Waste Management is a chance to nominate organizations that have taken steps to reduce their impact on the waste stream. **Businesses may apply for recognition in one or both award categories: waste reduction and recycling.** Candidates may have:

- begun or maintained a recycling program
- implemented green procurement practices (such as buying in bulk, returning used pallets, etc.)
- actively prioritized or promoted material reuse
- taken steps to reduce the amount of waste disposed (using methods that can vary widely, from printing fewer pages to composting organic wastes.)

Award winners will be selected by the Department of Solid Waste Management and formally commended by the Board of County Commissioners. Award winners will be publicly recognized in a press release as well as a large-format advertisement in the Frederick News Post, on cable's FCG-TV channel and online, so that the local community will be aware of the leadership provided by these organizations.

For more information or to apply, please visit: www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/BusinessRecycle

Working Together: Helping Businesses Recycle

Are you interested in starting a recycling program for your workplace, multi-family housing complex, or church or community group building? Come learn from regional experts and local organizations that have established successful recycling programs! This free, day-long seminar will present information on local recycling options for commercial properties. From landlords and property managers to restaurant owners and hotel managers, even office workers and civic club members—where a will to recycle exists, we're here to help find a way that works for YOUR specific sector.

Presentations will cover how to set up an individual program or a recycling cooperative involving multiple organizations, what to look for when hiring a hauler, how to train staff and provide outreach to customers, and ongoing active management to reduce the waste stream and improve the bottom line. Open discussion periods will encourage attendees to swap ideas and address potential concerns. The day will end with information presented by local waste and recycling haulers and the opportunity to discuss your recycling needs one-on-one.

If you've considered recycling but haven't been sure how/why/when to start...this is THE event to get you going green! The seminar will take place October 5, 2011. There is no fee to attend, but advance registration is required and space is limited. To register, please call Dave Helmecki at 301-600-7404 or send email to DHelmecki@FrederickCountyMD.gov.



Frederick County Department of Solid Waste Management

VIDEO CONTEST

What: Produce a 30- or 60-second ad to promote recycling.

Why: To help Frederick County recycle more. And to win a little local fame, some movie tickets and \$250!

When: The entry deadline is October 19, 2011.

Who: You! (Anyone can enter, youth or adult.)

The Basics:

Submissions must meet at least one of these goals:

- encourage people to recycle more
- explain what is/isn't recyclable
- promote the value of recycling
- help correct common recycling mistakes

One Grand Prize winner will receive \$250 and have their work displayed for six weeks at the Regal Cinemas Westview movie theater. One "People's Choice" winner will receive a \$50 cinema gift card and have their work shown on FCG-TV. Winners will be presented with a certificate by the Board of County Commissioners and have their picture taken with local officials. Interviews with the winners and a press release will go out on America Recycles Day, November 15, 2011.

What Else? More info, official rules & entry forms can be found online at: www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/VideoContest. Or call 301-600-7405.



Fall Events Calendar

Upcoming DSWM programs and local events of interest

September 5

Labor Day Holiday to Affect Curbside Recycling Schedule

Don't forget! The DSWM facilities will be closed on Monday September 5, with no curbside collection. All recycling pickups for the week will shift one day later than their normal collection day.

September 10

Frederick's 'In the Street'

Come celebrate our community at this popular festival! Office of Recycling staff will host an information and activity booth in the "Going Green" block—an area that features organizations that strive for sustainability.

September 20 & 21

The Great Frederick Fair's "Focus Forward on Green" Expo

Recycling receptacles will once again be located throughout the fairgrounds and Office of Recycling staff will host a booth at the "Focus Forward on Green Expo" in the Grand Rental Events' Community Tent. Stop by to learn something new—and win a prize too!

October 5

Working Together: Helping Businesses Recycle

9am-4:30pm

Learn from regional recycling experts and fellow Frederick County business owners who have established successful recycling programs! This free, day-long seminar will present information on local recycling options for commercial properties. From landlords and property managers to restaurant owners and hotel managers, even office workers and civic club members—where a will to recycle exists, we're here to help find a way that works for your organization!

More information and registration forms

Launch Internet Explorer Browser.Ink

online at: www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/BusinessRecycle

[BusinessRecycle](http://www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/BusinessRecycle)

October 19

Deadline to Submit Entries for the Recycling Video Contest

Are you a fan of recycling? Get out a video camera and show the world why you think recycling matters. You could win \$250, movie tickets and some fans of your own! More info online at: www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/VideoContest

October 12

Deadline to Apply for the Business Waste Reduction & Recycling Award

Is your business thinking green? Get the credit you deserve for your efforts to create less waste! Info and applications available online at: www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/BusinessRecycle

October 12-16

Tot Swap Consignment Sale

Frederick Fairgrounds.

Promoting reuse of clothing, toys, and more. Being a consignment seller or a buyer, you get to be green in two ways: saving the environment and saving money! Info at: www.TotSwap.net

October 22

Household Hazardous Waste Drop Off Event

8am-12pm

Hazardous wastes are not accepted in Frederick County's recycling program, but should be kept out of the environment—and our landfill. From medicines to rechargeable batteries, there is no charge to drop off residential hazardous materials at our special event: at 8349 Reichs Ford Road. More info available on our website: www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/HazWaste

November 15

America Recycles Day!

Visit our Facebook page to learn more about this favorite holiday and related local events!

Local Schools Can Join in the Rally to Get Students Recycling!

Public school students have been offered classroom recycling for many years, and local home school students can of course benefit from the single-stream recycling program offered to all Frederick County single-family households. But what about private school students? Or preschools? Thanks to a project of Pepsico, Waste Management and Keep America Beautiful, **these local youths can now recycle too!**

As part of the **Dream Machine Recycle Rally**, students are encouraged to collect plastic bottles and aluminum cans and bring them into their school to earn points redeemable with local businesses and/or national retailers for rewards such as sporting goods, electronics, gift cards, educational events, and music, books and videos. **The more a school recycles the more rewards it can earn!**

Beyond basic incentives, participating schools also compete for top prizes—like a \$50,000 “Dream Green School Makeover” and more!

It's FREE to participate! Program tools, promotional materials and detailed program information are all provided to make participation in the Dream Machine Recycle Rally convenient and rewarding. And, arranging for the pick-up of recycled beverage containers is easy—local representatives work with schools to put together a collection plan. Once that's set, Waste Management, or another approved recycler, simply pick ups the recyclables, audits them to validate the points earned, and takes them to a recycling facility for processing.

To learn more or sign your school up to participate, visit:

www.DreamMachineRecycleRally.com



What do compact fluorescent light bulbs and rechargeable batteries have in common...other than both being energy-conserving alternatives to common household items? **Once they are no longer useable, these items are considered hazardous waste!** (CFL bulbs contain mercury and rechargeable batteries contain substances such as lithium, cadmium and nickel.)

Regular incandescent bulbs and standard alkaline batteries can be placed in your regular household trash. But with many households switching to “greener” alternatives, knowing how to properly dispose of them is increasingly important—and necessary to make them truly eco-friendly.

Frederick County's next Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event takes place on Saturday October 22, from 8am until 12pm at the Public Safety Training Facility located at 8349 Reichs Ford Road in Frederick. For more information visit: www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/HazWaste or call (301) 600-1848.

Frederick County Department of Solid Waste Management

9031 Reichs Ford Road, Frederick, MD 21704

Landfill: 301-600-1848

E-mail: landfill@FrederickCountyMD.gov

Office of Recycling: 301-600-2960

E-mail: recycle@FrederickCountyMD.gov

